

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the application as indicated hereinafter, by inserting the underlined matter and deleting the matter lined through. Also, please cancel the claims that are indicated with "Canceled" by the claim numbers.

1 1-22 (Cancelled)

1 23. A process of chilling previously eviscerated whole birds or the like comprising:
2 providing an elongated tank and an auger in the tank;
3 filling said tank with water;
4 depositing birds in a bird inlet end of said tank;
5 moving the birds with said auger from said bird inlet end to a bird outlet end of
6 said tank;
7 passing water into a sump in said bird inlet end of said tank;
8 retarding movement of said birds into said sump;
9 removing the birds from said bird outlet end of said tank;
10 recirculating the water from said sump through a heat exchanger to said bird inlet
11 end of said tank;
12 terminating the depositing of birds in said tank and the recirculating of water; and
13 recirculating the water from said sump through said heat exchanger and back to
14 said sump to clean said heat exchanger.

1 24. The process of claim 23 wherein the step of passing water into said sump
2 comprises passing water over a water impervious lower portion of a transverse wall in
3 said tank, and the step of retarding movement of the birds into said sump comprises
4 retarding the movement of the birds into said sump with a water previous central portion
5 of said transverse wall.

1 25. A process of chilling previously eviscerated whole birds or the like comprising:
2 providing an elongated tank having a bird inlet end and a bird outlet end;
3 filling said tank with water;
4 depositing birds in the water at said bird inlet end of said tank;
5 moving the birds along said tank to said bird outlet end of said tank;
6 moving water from said bird outlet end toward said bird inlet end of said tank;
7 passing the water into a sump in said bird inlet end of said tank;
8 recirculating the water from said sump through a heat exchanger back to said bird
9 outlet end of said tank.

1 26. The process of claim 25, and further including the step of cleaning said heat
2 exchanger by moving water from said sump through said heat exchanger back to said
3 sump.

1 27-30 (Cancelled)

1 31. A process of chilling previously eviscerated whole birds or the like comprising:
2 providing an elongated tank having a bird inlet end and a bird outlet end and a
3 motive device in the tank for moving the birds from the bird inlet end to the bird outlet
4 end;
5 filling the tank with water;
6 progressively depositing birds in the bird inlet end of the tank;
7 moving the birds with the motive device from the bird inlet end of the tank
8 through the water in the tank to the bird outlet end of the tank;
9 moving water from the bird outlet end of the tank through the tank in counter
10 flow relationship with respect to the birds' movement through the tank and into a sump in
11 the tank at the bird inlet end of the tank;
12 retarding the movement of the birds into the sump;
13 progressively removing the birds from the bird outlet end of the tank; and
14 recirculating the water from the sump through a heat exchanger to the bird outlet
15 end of the tank.

1 32. The process of claim 31, and further including the step of :
2 filling the sump with a cleaning liquid and recirculating the cleaning liquid through
3 the sump and the heat exchanger to clean the heat exchanger.

1 33. The process of claim 31, and further including the steps of:
2 terminating the depositing of birds in the tank;
3 clearing the tank of birds;
4 terminating the recirculating of water to the bird inlet end of the tank,
5 draining the tank,
6 recirculating a cleaning liquid from the sump through the heat exchanger and back
7 to the sump to clean the heat exchanger.

1 34. The process of claim 31 wherein the step of moving water into the sump
2 comprises passing water over a water impervious lower portion of a transverse wall in the
3 tank, and the step of retarding movement of the birds into the sump comprises retarding
4 the movement of the birds into the sump with a water previous central portion of the
5 transverse wall.